



“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” (Luke 2:25 - NIV)

Prayer: Almighty God, in mercy You sent Your One and Only Son Who humbled Himself, and became True Man for my sake. By His gracious coming deliver me from the corruption of my sin and transform me in the likeness of His glory; through Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service With L.S. – pg. 15

- Greeting by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 46** / TLH 648 Sung by the Congregation

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Isaiah 45:20-25-The Lord is God our Savior

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 111 (C.W. pg. 106 – Sung by Congregation)

Second Lesson – Colossians 3:12-17-God’s Chosen People

Gospel Lesson – Luke 2:21-40 – The Consolation of Israel

Nicene Creed by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 36** / TLH 76 sung by the Congregation

Sermon Text: Luke 2:25

Sermon Theme: What Type Of Comfort Are You Looking For?

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer

Communion Liturgy (Liturgy - pg. 21)

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

Agnus Dei (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ’s Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 63** / TLH 136 sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 64** / TLH 97 sung by the Congregation.

SERMON TEXT: **Luke 2:25**

Vs. 25 – Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation (- παρακλήσιν - Comfort) of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

GREETING: In the town of David a Savior has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord.

How important is it to you that you live a comfortable life?

Of course, “*Comfortable*” can be understood in different ways by different people.

A lady in Zambia who is used to carrying water for cooking in a jar /bucket, balanced on her head for over two miles from the nearest river, would be thrilled when a well is dug next to her house and all she has to do is go outside and pump the handle up and down, and suddenly, she has all the water she needs for cooking and washing.

While an American woman who has had running water in the house, at the kitchen sink and in the bathroom and in the laundry room for her entire life, may wish to have new faucets to be more comfortable.

One thing that definitely would be uncomfortable is hell.

Hell is the place that is described in the Bible as a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 13:42), as a place where the worm will never die (Mk. 9:48), prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41), and it is everlasting fire / forever (Matt. 18:8)

Even just thinking about and talking about hell is uncomfortable to some.

Simeon was waiting for the Consolation / the Comfort of Israel.

This man by the name of Simeon (There is debate as to his age) was informed by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until after he saw with his own eyes the Lord’s Christ.

Simeon was waiting for that promised Messiah Who would bring peace between God and Mankind.

Simeon was waiting for the One Who would suffer the consequences of hell on our behalf, so that we can look forward to the eternal comforts of heaven. (Matthew 25:34, Philippians 3:20-21, I Thess. 4:13-18, Rev. 21:1-7, Isaiah 65:17-25)

Luke 2:25 (NIV) - Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Vs. 26 - It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

Vs. 27 - Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

Vs. 28 - Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: (*The Nunc Dimittis – Song of Simeon*)

Vs. 29 - “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

Vs. 30 - For my eyes have seen your salvation,

Vs. 31 - which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

Vs. 32 - a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Vs. 33 - The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

Vs. 34 - Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

Vs. 35 - so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. **And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”**

When Jesus was suffering on the cross, as Mary looked up at her Son – Jesus, she knew this was her Savior, but it was also her Son.

What mother would not have sorrow in her heart as she sees her son hanging on a cross?

But because of the sacrifice that Jesus made for Mary, for us, for all people, those who believe in Jesus as their One and Only Savior, can look forward to the Comforts of heaven.

It is that certain Comfort of Heaven, in Christ Jesus, that gives us strength through all the discomforts of our life here on earth.

Keep your hearts, your mind, your eyes on Jesus - The Consolation of Israel,
As we look forward to His second coming. **AMEN**

For Further Study:

Luke 2:21 NIV - **On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus,** the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. (The shedding of the blood of Jesus at circumcision. This is included in the fulfillment of the law by Jesus, for us.)

Luke 2:22 - When the time of their **purification** (40th Day after His birth) according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

(- παρακλητος - Helper – Intercessor - Comforter)

Joh 14:16 - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you forever;

Joh 14:26 - But the **Comforter**, which is the **Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 15:26 - But when the **Comforter** is come whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Joh 16:7 - Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away for if I go not away the **Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

(KJV)

In **I John 2:1-2** – it reads: **My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin, but if anybody does sin, we have One Who speaks (Advocate/Helper/Intercessor - παρακλητον -) to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2- He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”**

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